UCONN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

PUBLIC ISSUES COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2026

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 pm
Location: Microsoft Teams

Voting Members Present:	Drs. Thomas Agresta, Anton Alerte, Audrey Chapman, Emil Coman, Kirsten Guertin, Laura Haynes, Jaclyn Jaeger, Linda Sprague Martinez, Christopher Steele, D. Anthony Yoder, and Ms. Deb Polun
Voting Members Excused:	Drs. Neena Qasba and Leonela Villegas, and Ms. Miriam Miller
Others in Attendance:	Dr. Patrick Murphy, Oversight Committee Liaison, and Dr. Jenna Bartley, previous chair

Non-Voting Members Excused/Absent: Dr. Linda Barry, ex officio member

Meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm by acting chair, Dr. Anton Alerte.

1. **Nomination and Election of Public Issues Council Chair:**

   Motion made by Dr. Alerte., seconded by Dr. Agresta, to elect Dr. Haynes as new Chair of Public Issues Council.

   Favor to approve: Drs. Thomas Agresta, Anton Alerte, Audrey Chapman, Emil Coman, Kirsten Guertin, Laura Haynes, Jaclyn Jaeger, Linda Sprague Martinez, Christopher Steele, D. Anthony Yoder, and Ms. Deb Polun

In favor:	11
Against:	0
Abstain:	0
Motion Passed:	11:0

2. **Update from Deans Council and Oversight Committee:**

   <u>Dean's Council:</u>

   Dr. Jaclyn Jaeger stated the most significant update from Dr. Liang focused on the LCME accreditation process. The School of Medicine completed its LCME review earlier this year and expects to receive official results in October. Dr. Liang noted that the LCME has recently decided to eliminate approximately a dozen accreditation standards from its evaluation process. As a result, any concerns or areas identified for improvement that fall under those eliminated standards would no longer require follow-up, which is viewed as reassuring news. The LCME is also considering extending the accreditation review cycle from eight to ten years for institutions that receive successful reviews. Because UConn completed its review before these changes are fully implemented, a successful outcome would likely place the institution on a nine-year review cycle rather than the proposed ten-year cycle. Overall, the discussion highlighted potentially favorable changes to the LCME process that could benefit schools undergoing or recently completing accreditation reviews.

DRAFT

Oversight Committee:

Dr. Patrick Murphy reported that the primary focus of the Oversight Committee was reviewing and voting on proposed bylaw changes that had been distributed in advance of the meeting. These included amendments to the School of Medicine bylaws proposed by the Dean, as well as revisions to the Clinical Council membership, both of which were scheduled for further discussion during the meeting.

3. **Discussion and vote on bylaw amendment proposals from the Oversight Committee regarding essential membership and the Dean's Memo as it pertains to Public Issues Council bylaw amendments:**

The Council reviewed proposed bylaw amendments received from the School of Medicine Oversight Committee. Discussion items included a proposed amendment to the Clinical Council's essential membership, which was described as an administrative update to replace a position that no longer exists following a retirement. Members also discussed proposed revisions to the Public Issues Council bylaws, including language related to increasing community resources and awareness of issues affecting public health. Concerns were raised that the proposed changes had advanced to the Oversight Committee before the Public Issues Council had an opportunity to provide formal feedback. The Council agreed that its position should be communicated promptly to the Oversight Committee through a formal position statement so that its recommendations could be considered before broader voting by other governance groups.

A motion was made by Dr. Agresta and seconded by Dr. Alerte to approve the Clinical Council's amendment to its bylaws as it relates to essential membership:

Favor to approve:	Drs. Thomas Agresta, Anton Alerte, Audrey Chapman, Emil Coman, Kirsten Guertin, Laura Haynes, Jaclyn Jaeger, Linda Sprague Martinez, Christopher Steele, D. Anthony Yoder, and Ms. Deb Polun
In favor:	11
Against:	0
Abstain:	0
Motion Passed:	11:0

A motion was made by Dr. Haynes and seconded by Ms. Polun to amend the sentence from the Dean's Memo to read "…and seeks to increase community resources and timely public understanding of relevant health public issues…"

Favor to approve:	Drs. Thomas Agresta, Anton Alerte, Audrey Chapman, Emil Coman, Kirsten Guertin, Laura Haynes, Jaclyn Jaeger, Linda Sprague Martinez, Christopher Steele, D. Anthony Yoder, and Ms. Deb Polun
In Favor:	11
Against:	0
Abstain:	0
Motion Passed:	11:0

4. **Roundtable Discussion:**

The Council discussed ongoing public health communication efforts related to vaccines and agreed that a Q&A format would be an effective approach for future educational materials. Members also discussed developing a measles-related executive summary to support public awareness and outreach. Dr. Agresta and Dr. Alerte volunteered to lead the effort and explore involvement from additional faculty experts. The group emphasized the continued importance of addressing vaccine and measles-related issues through clear, evidence-based communication**.**

Adjournment:

Having completed the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza M. Bocchichio

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

October 26, 2026
November 30, 2026
December 28, 2026
January 25, 2027
February 22, 2027
March 22, 2027
April 26, 2027
May 24, 2027
June 28, 2027